THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Religious tourism in Orissa

409. SHRI B. J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Orissa is the cultural and religious heritage centre of Buddhism and sea-route is a convenient mode of travel for South-East Asian people to visit the large numbers of ancient Buddhist temples located in the State:

(b) whether to boost religious tourism in the State, there is an urgent need to develop auxiliary infrastructure *i.e.* roads etc., which are in bad shape; and

(c) the action plan of the centre to help the cash-strapped State to develop the road infrastructure to boost religious tourism in the State with a view to improve its economy?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken primarily by the State Governments/UT Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations for tourism related projects under schemes for Product/Infrastructure Development of Destinations/Circuits and Assistance to Large Revenue Generating Projects.

A list of projects sanctioned for the State of Orissa, including religious places, during the Tenth Plan is given in Statement.

Statement

Religious Tourism in Orissa

Projects sanctioned to the State of Orissa during the Tenth Plan

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of Project/Scheme	Amount sanctioned
1	2	3
	2002-03	
1.	Rural Tourism Project at Raghurajpur	50.00
2.	Computerisation of office and its Groups	7.50
	TOTAL	57.50

1	2	3
	2003-04	
1.	Development of Puri as a Tourist destination	394.55
2.	Konark Festival, 2002	5.00
3.	Folk Dance Festival, 2003-04	5.00
4.	Rajarani Music Festival, 2003-04	5.00
5.	Buddha Mahotsav	10.00
	TOTAL	419.55
	2004-05	
1.	Development of Peace Park and Amphitheater at Dhauli (Distt. Khurda) under Dest. Development	488.51
2.	Integrated Development of Buddhist Circuit in Orissa — Development of facilities at Lalitgiri, Ratnagiri, Udaigiri and Langudi under Tourist Circuit	740.67
3.	Shreekshetra Vasant Festival at Puri	15.00
4.	Kharvela Festival, 2004-05	5.00
5.	GOI-UNDP Endogenous Tourism Project at village Pipli in Puri Distt. (Software)	20.00
6.	GOI-UNDP Endogenous Tourism Project at village Raghurajpur in Puri Distt. (Software)	20.00
7.	Development of Village Pipli in Puri Distt. (Hardware)	50.00
	TOTAL	1339.18
	2005-06	
1.	Development of Gopalpur-on-Sea (Distt. Ganjam)	447.22
2.	Development of Sakhi Gopal (Distt. Puri)	460.96
3.	Development of Taptapani in Distt Ganjam as Tourist Destination	500.00
4.	Integrated Development of Tourist Circuit Bhubaneswar-Dhauli-Puri-Konark	720.09
5.	Development of Chilka Lake (Distt. Puri and Ganjam) as Tourist Destination	389.05

1	2	3
6.	Development of Rural Tourism at Village Khiching, Distt. Mayurbhanj	50.00
7.	Shreekshetra Festival at Puri	15.00
8.	Puri Beach Festival, 2005	4.00
9.	Konark Festival, 2005	3.00
10.	Rajrani Festival, 2005 at Bhubaneswar	3.00
	TOTAL	2592.32
	2006-07	
1.	Development of Simlipal in Distt. Mayurbhanj as a tourist destination	297.12
2.	Puri Beach Festival, 2006	05.00
3.	Konark Festival, 2006	05.00
4.	Ekamra Utsav, 2007	10.00
5.	Shreekshetra Vasant Utsav, 2006	10.00
6.	Integrated Development of Chandipur-Talsari-Udaypur-Chandaneswar-Remuna-Panchlingeswar-Nilagiri Circuit	800.00
7.	Development of Village Barpali, Distt. Baragarh, Rural Tourism (Hardware)	50.00
8.	Development of Village Hirapur, Distt. Khurda, Rural Tourism (Hardware)	50.00
9.	Development of Village Padmanavpur, Distt. Ganjam, Rural Tourism (Hardware)	50.00
10.	Development of Village Deulajhari, Distt. Angul, Rural Tourism (Hardware)	50.00
11.	Integrated Development of Koraput Circuit "Koraput-Deomali-Jeypore-Upper Kolab-Gupteshwar as a tourist circuit in Orissa	692.00
12.	Development of Eco-Tourism at Bhitarkanika	383.22
13.	Development of Satkosia as a Tourist Destination in Orissa	424.50
	TOTAL	2826.84